

*The
California
Environmental
Protection Agency*

*Border Environmental
Program*

*Strategic Vision
October, 2001*



The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of water. It shows numerous concentric ripples and smaller, more chaotic wave patterns, likely from rain falling into a pool of water. The water has a greenish-grey tint, and the light reflects off the crests of the ripples, creating a shimmering effect. Some small, dark brown leaves or debris are scattered across the surface.

The following individuals deserve special recognition for their valuable contribution to the California Environmental Protection Agency Border Affairs Program's Strategic Vision document:

- **Heather Myers**
- **Chris Marxen**
- **Alex Rodarte**



**State of California
Gray Davis,
Governor**



Border Environmental Program Strategic Vision

Border Fence Between Playas de Tijuana and San Ysidro

**California Environmental Protection Agency
Winston H. Hickox, Secretary**

**Nancy H. Sutley, Deputy Secretary for Policy
and Intergovernmental Relations**

**Ricardo Martinez,
Assistant Secretary for Border Affairs**



CAL/EPA BORDER AFFAIRS UNIT

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARIES

This Strategic Vision for the Border Environmental Program represents months of efforts by the various environmental protection organizations in California and Baja California, Mexico. The cooperation and collaboration that occurred during the development process was especially critical to the completion of a comprehensive draft. We wish to thank all the individuals and organizations that participated in writing this Border Environmental Program Strategic Vision document.

The purpose of this strategic vision is to serve as a planning tool to restore, preserve and protect the environment and natural resources in the Border Region. To accomplish this, we must rely on our most precious resource: the people who work in the Border Environmental Program. Our success starts here. Our ability to accomplish what we set out to do is based primarily on our people sharing our goals, communicating and cooperating with each other, involving each stakeholder in the Border Region in the environmental protection process, and providing us with needed feedback regarding the direction of our program. We are devoted to investing in, supporting, and engaging our staff members in the constant reinvention and improvement of the program. We recognize that the right people, offering their ideas and expertise, will enable us to continue our success.

***“Cal/EPA is committed to resolve environmental and natural resource issues to help ensure the future quality of a cleaner, safer, healthier, and more prosperous Border Region.”
- Winston H. Hickox***



*Winston H. Hickox, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
and Adolfo Gonzalez Calvillo, Director General, Baja California Dirección General de Ecología*

California and Baja California have established a joint mission to promote a cleaner and more prosperous Border Region. Our vision for a standard of excellence for international cooperation and collaboration is formulated to allow the achievement of our goals. We are sincerely committed to protecting the Border Region for the productive use of future generations.

Our governments recognize that environmental protection, economic vitality and development are interdependent. This principle is even more significant in the shared Border Region where the allocation of natural resources has traditionally been a major social and political concern. In the past two decades, issues related to natural resources have been exacerbated by the environmental concerns promulgated by economic expansion and a rapid increase in the population growth rate.

Both states recognize the importance of addressing environmental issues on a multimedia basis utilizing the best science and technology. In addition, both states are aware of the value of pollution prevention, compliance, and strong enforcement. All of these principles are embodied in this Strategic Vision and are critical to the creation of a better environment in the Border Region.

The Dirección General de Ecología in Baja California has commenced the development of its Strategic Plan for Environmental Protection. There will be, of necessity, some differences between the planning documents of the two States. However, we are committed to working together to ensure that our goals and objectives complement each other and result in the highest standard of environmental protection in our shared Border Region.

Sincerely,



Winston H. Hickox
Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency
State of California



M.C. Adolfo González Calvillo
Director General de Ecología
Dirección General de Ecología
Estado de Baja California



Boundary Monument #276 in Tijuana. Monuments that delineate the actual border line are maintained by the International Boundary and Water Commission

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	7
Introduction	9
Strategic Vision Review.....	11
Mission	14
Vision	16
Core Values	17
Strategic Goals and Objectives	19



California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Delegation meets with Counterparts in Mexico City

*Opening Ceremony
XVIII Border Governors Conference,
Sacramento*



Secretary Winston Hickox, California Environmental Protection Agency and Mr. Victor Lichtinger, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of Mexico, Signing Agreements of Cooperation Between California and Mexico



Tijuana Monument Celebrating Public Education

PREFACE

For the past two decades, efforts to address environmental issues along the California – Baja California Border have been made on a project-by-project basis in areas such as wastewater, water quality, and air quality. Approximately five years ago, these efforts became more coordinated by the establishment of a U.S. – Mexico Border Environmental Program. The initial program was established on a federal level, followed by similar state-to-state arrangements.

As a result of the outcomes of the XIV U.S. - Mexico Border Governors' Conference in May 1996 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and of the Ten U.S. – Mexico Border States' Retreat entitled "*A Regional Approach to the U.S. - Mexico Border Environment*" in Austin, Texas in November 1996, the framework for a United States – Mexico Border-wide environmental program was established. Several environmental organizations within the California State government established their own Border Programs at that time, but it was not until the promulgation of the Budget Act of 1999 that a comprehensive California Border Environmental Program was established. The coordination of the program was vested in the California Environmental Protection Agency's newly formed Border Affairs Unit.

This Strategic Vision seeks to formalize and direct the efforts of the Cal/EPA Border Environmental Program. It also seeks to improve coordination of the efforts in the Border Region by engaging all interested parties, including the California Border Tribal Communities and Governments. Additional goals of the Strategic Vision are to promote interagency cooperation utilizing a multimedia approach for environmental protection; to make the best use of existing resources to address common environmental priorities; to serve as a basis to leverage outside resources to support environmental programs and actions, and; to ensure that a mechanism exists for Trans-boundary environmental impact notification.

This Strategic Vision is the result of the continued commitment not only of the State's Environmental Secretaries, but the support of the Governors of California and Baja California. The two states will work together to maintain a framework of participation and cooperation. Ongoing coordination and cooperation between the Governors, industry, Tribal Representatives, other interested parties, and members of the public are necessary to accomplish our environmental protection goals, the conservation of natural resources, and the resulting benefits to public health.

Overall strategies involve sharing information, providing technical assistance, and coordinating programs and efforts.

Hotel Coral Marina, Ensenada



INTRODUCTION

The California-Baja California Border Region provides many challenges and opportunities for the protection of the environment. While the States share a commitment to protect environmental and natural resources, they also seek to maintain the economic vitality of the region. Represented by the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Dirección General de Ecología de Baja California, the states have outlined specific goals and objectives to address these issues.

This Strategic Vision is the result of the efforts of the bi-state Border Coordinators Group. The group is made of representatives from California and Baja California departments involved in environmental issues and with various stakeholder groups involved with the protection of the environment in the Border Region. California Agencies involved with the completion of the Strategic Vision include the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Resources Agency, the Health and Human Services Agency, and the Department of Justice. Baja California agencies include the Department of Ecology (Dirección General de Ecología), Federal Prosecutor for the Protection of the Environment (Procuraduría Federal De Protección Al Ambiente or PROFEPA), and Office of Economic Development (Oficina de Desarrollo Económico). Some Tribal Representatives also participated in the process.

The ability to jointly address issues in the Border Region is affected by differences in social and economic development; relationships between federal, state, and local agencies; regulatory authorization, and; financial and technical resources. For these reasons, close planning and coordination are essential. The Strategic Vision must be constantly monitored, critiqued, and utilized when making decisions regarding environmental protection in our shared Border Region. The Strategic Vision document is the planning tool from which participating agencies will derive specific plans, tasks, and outcomes.

For more information on the status of environmental issues and on the social-economic, organizational, regulatory, and financial and technical issues within the Border Region, please see the Border Environmental Program's web page at <http://bep.calepa.ca.gov>.

This Strategic Vision document was written as an amendment to, and complements the California Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Vision Document. That document, published in July, 2000, is available for viewing at <http://calepa.ca.gov>.



U.S. – Mexico Border Between San Ysidro and Tijuana

STRATEGIC VISION REVIEW

The Border Environmental Program will seek to constantly improve. This Strategic Vision directs the program to take a pro-active approach to addressing identified opportunities for more and better services to the communities, natural resources, and the environment within the Border Region. For the Border Environmental Program and its Strategic Vision to succeed, people working within the program must be responsible for the strategies employed and be entrusted with the leadership and authority to be meaningfully involved.

A key provision of this process is for staff and stakeholders to be allowed a continuous formal evaluation of the program. This self-review process is designed to reinforce the spirit of cooperation and communication necessary for the program to be successful, to stimulate thought regarding the actions or directions that the program is taking, and to immediately bring potential problems or ideas to the attention of upper management.

All staff working within the Border Environmental Program have been given a Program Evaluation form. Other stakeholders may obtain a copy of the form at the Border Environmental Program website. The form is to be used for the following:

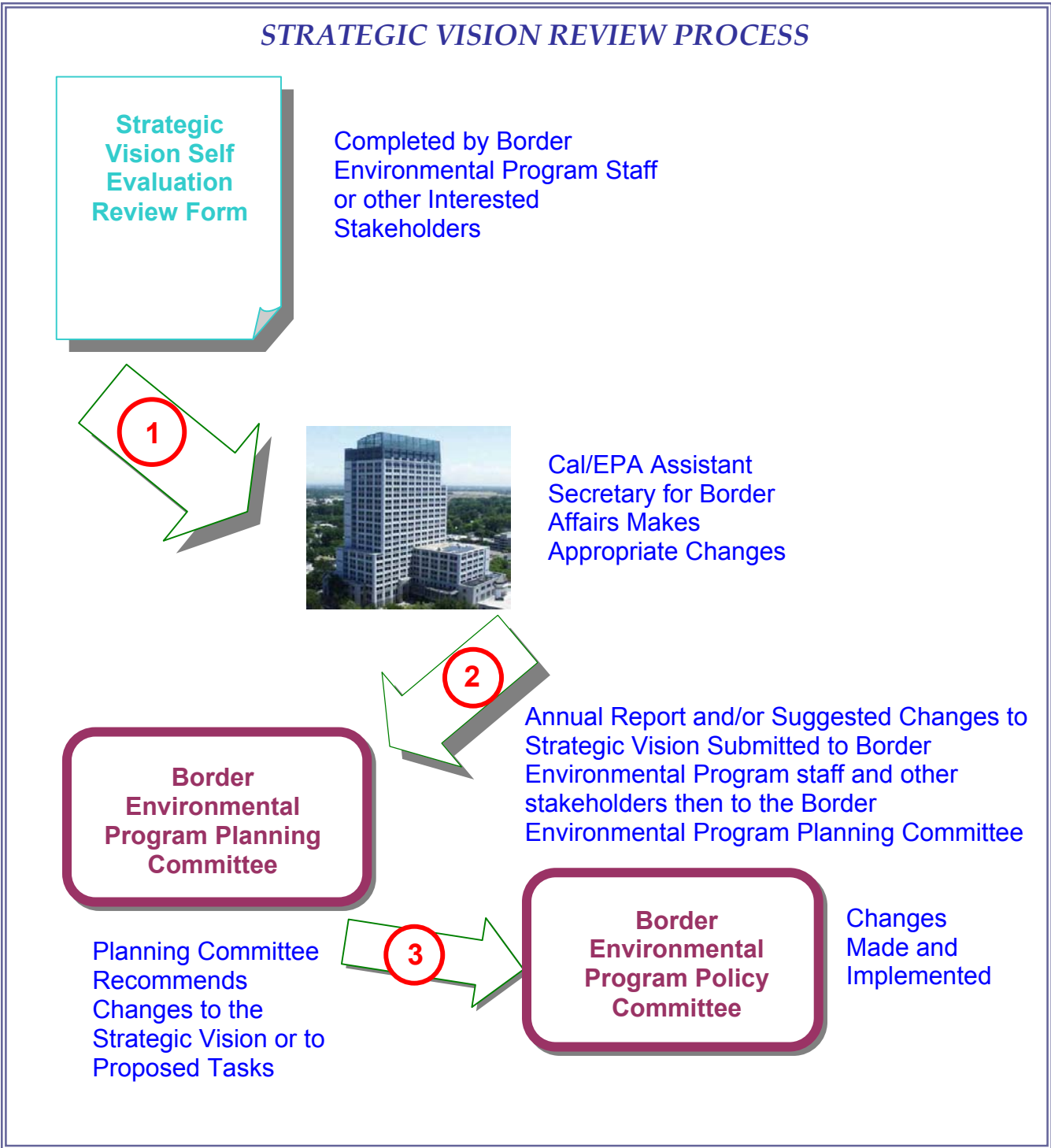
1. To convey concerns regarding whether specific actions taken by the program meet the provisions of the Strategic Vision;
2. To provide any suggestions or comments regarding changes to the Strategic Vision;
3. To suggest specific actions that could be taken which will meet one or more of the goals of the Strategic Vision, and;
4. To bring any other ideas regarding the program to upper management.

Completed forms are to be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Border Affairs at Cal/EPA. On an annual basis, the Assistant Secretary will prepare a report regarding the accomplishments of the Border Environmental Program. The report will also make any suggested changes to the Strategic Vision and contain a summary of new or ongoing actions to be undertaken by the program in the next year. A draft will be circulated among staff members and other stakeholders.

After receiving comments from these parties, a final draft will be completed and submitted for approval to the Border Environmental Program Planning Committee. This committee consists of management from each Board, Department, and Office within Cal/EPA having a specific organizational interest in an aspect of the Border Region.

After approval from the Planning Committee is received, the report will be finalized by the approval of the Border Environmental Program Policy Committee. The Border Environmental Program Policy Committee consists of the Directors of each Board, Department, or Office within Cal/EPA as well as the Executive officers of the two Regional Water Quality Control Boards within the Border Region.

Changes to the Strategic Vision will be made accordingly.





***International Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Ysidro.
The City of Tijuana is in the Background.***

MISSION

The mission of the California - Baja California Border Environmental Program is to work toward a better environment in the Border Region by identifying and resolving unique environmental and natural resource challenges and the resultant public health issues.





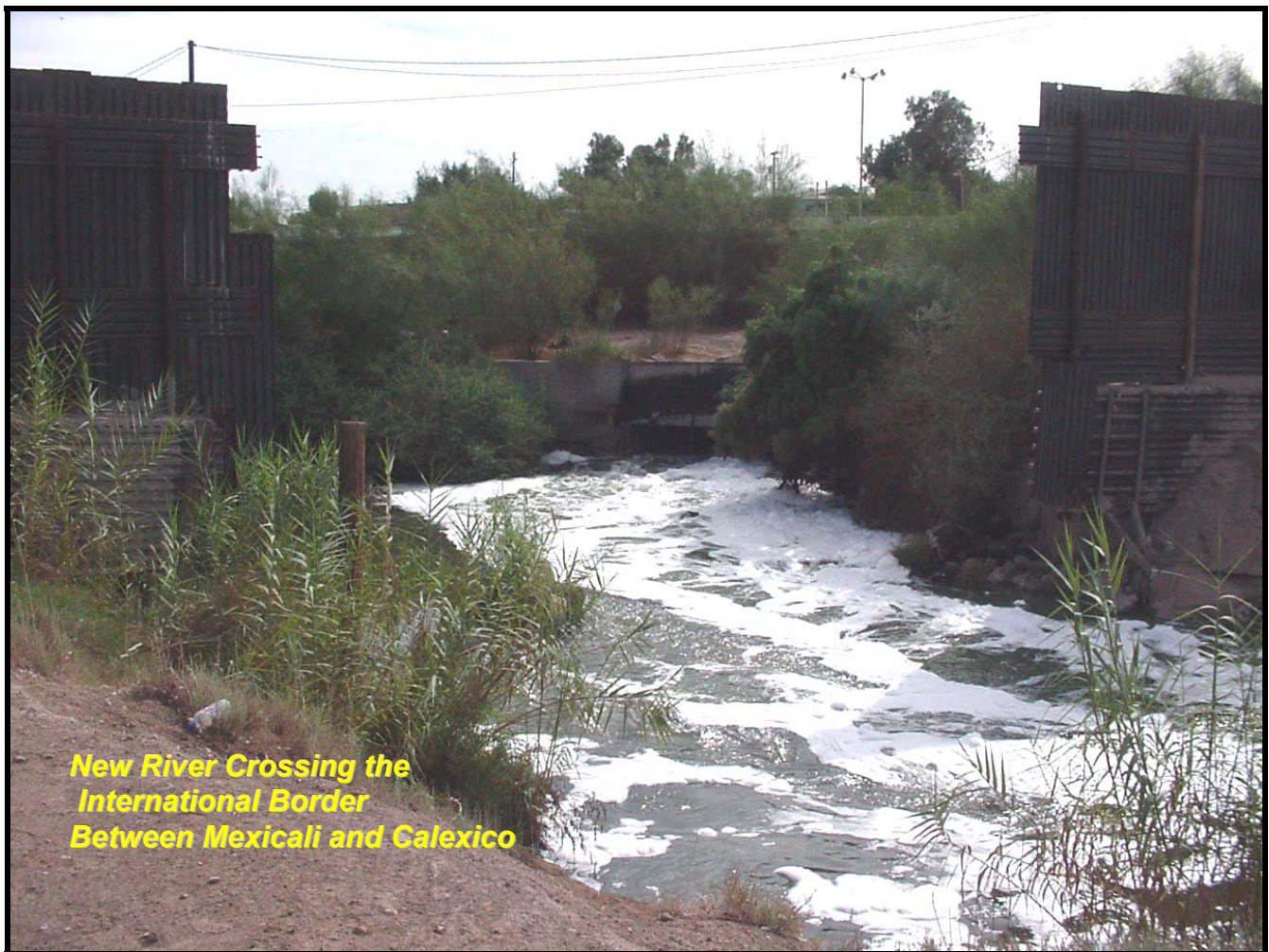
Border Fence From Playas de Tijuana

VISION

The Border Environmental Program visualizes a standard of excellence for international cooperation and collaboration that focuses on resolving environmental and natural resource issues to help ensure the future quality of a cleaner, safer, healthier, and more prosperous Border Region.



Flag Vendor Prior to Mexican Independence Day (September 16)



CORE VALUES

The following principles and philosophy guide the working relationship between California and Baja California:

- **Protection and Development**

The Border Environmental Program is committed to protecting public health and the environment, restoring and conserving natural resources, and enhancing the economic vitality of the Border Region.

- **Cooperation and Collaboration**

The Border Environmental Program is committed to a partnership that will work toward a common vision, establish open communication and share knowledge and information, science and technology, and staff resources. This partnership will be the basis for notification of trans-boundary issues.

- **Integrity and Respect**

The Border Environmental Program is committed to truth, accuracy, and fairness, and is respectful of language, cultural and economic differences.

- **Continuous Improvement**

The Border Environmental Program is committed to continuously improve and update its efforts to maintain a clean border environment, and to incorporate technological innovations and enhancements to the programs dedicated to the protection of the environment.

- **Leadership and Accountability**

The Border Environmental Program is committed to providing responsible leadership in environmental protection, and in addressing border issues and will work to establish examples that other Border States can follow. The Border Environmental Program will develop annual work plans and will be responsible for achieving the identified milestones.

- **Public Participation and Communication**

The Border Environmental Program is committed to engaging the border communities and utilizing the participation of the federal, State, and local agencies, and the Tribal Communities and their Governments, to serve the interests of the Border Region.



STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: Develop an effective working relationship between California and Baja California.

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and understand missions of the various organizations or agencies dealing with environmental issues in the Border Region.
- Create an awareness of potential cultural differences and foster an understanding of those differences.
- Streamline any administrative hurdles to eliminate safety hazards and administrative barriers to the successful implementation of environmental programs in the Border Region.

GOAL 2: Air that is healthy to breathe, sustains and improves our ecosystems, and preserves natural and cultural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- Work towards reducing air emissions having cross-border impacts.
- Maintain an on-going international air monitoring and heavy-duty vehicle emission inspection program.
- Provide assistance to the development, design, and implementation of a vehicle inspection and maintenance program.
- Establish a smog check program that reduces cross-border impacts.



GOAL 3: Rivers, lakes, estuaries and marine waters that are fishable, swimmable, support healthy ecosystems and other beneficial uses.

OBJECTIVES:

- Restore impairs surface waters to standards that protect the public health and the environment.
- Maintain and restore all beneficial uses of water.
- Eliminate or reduce and control adverse public health and environmental impacts associated with the use of toxic and non-toxic pollutants in surface water.
- Maintain and restore sediment and water quality such that fish and shellfish are safe to consume.
- Restore and maintain inland riparian corridors and associated buffers for water quality, biological health, wildlife habitat, flood control, public safety, and bank stability.
- Restore and maintain the functional integrity of the marine and estuarine systems for water quality, biological health, wildlife habitat, storm protection, public safety and shoreline stability.

- Develop and implement a comprehensive bi-national watershed management approach for water quality protection and restoration.



GOAL 4: Groundwater that is safe for drinking and other beneficial uses*.

OBJECTIVES:

- Eliminate or reduce and control adverse public health and environmental impacts associated with the use of toxic and non-toxic pollutants in groundwater.
- Restore impaired groundwater to standards that protect the public health and environment.
- Prevent subsidence of groundwater aquifers.
- Prevent seawater intrusion of groundwater aquifers.
- Protect groundwater aquifers from pollution at well-head and water recharge areas.

**No change from that stated in the Cal/EPA Strategic Vision.*





GOAL 5: Communities that are free from unacceptable human health and ecological risks due to exposure from hazardous substances and other potential harmful agents.

OBJECTIVES:

- When pesticides are necessary, ensure that they are utilized in a safe and effective manner within the Border Region.
- Promote the ability of emergency response organizations to minimize damage from uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances on either side of the border within the Border Region.
- Identify contaminated sites within the Border Region.



GOAL 6: Reduce or eliminate the disproportionate impacts of pollution on low-income and minority populations.

OBJECTIVE:

- To assist the Border Communities to have full participation and access to utilize the services of BECC and NADBank and to other financial institutions which may assist in securing financing for environmental infrastructure improvements within the Border Region.

GOAL 7: Ensure the efficient use of natural resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote wastewater reuse and reclamation within the Border Region.
- Promote the efficient use of Border Region water sources.
- Identify and remediate contaminated water sources.



GOAL 8: Continuous improvement and application of science and technology*.

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote the development, commercialization and use of effective environmental techniques and technologies.
- Ensure all actions taken under California's environmental protection programs are based on sound science.
- Establish consistent agency-wide risk assessment and risk management protocols using objective, scientific evaluations.
- Ensure environmental impacts for all media are considered in environmental policy and management decisions.
- Identify and assess the health and environmental risks associated with high-volume chemicals.
- Recruit and retain qualified scientists.

* No change from that stated in the Cal/EPA Strategic Vision.



GOAL 9: An efficient and effective Cal/EPA in pursuit of its mission*.

OBJECTIVES:

Lead by Example

- Promote a “green” Cal/EPA.
- Lead the effort to “green” California State government.
- Ensure the California Environmental Quality Act is appropriately utilized in making project decisions.
- Engage the public and business community in taking personal and corporate responsibility for environmental improvement through education and outreach.
- Coordinate agency programs for children’s health.
- Increase cross-border and tribal environmental initiatives and programs.

Innovation

- Create a Plan for a Sustainable California.
- Promote the implementation of Environmental Management Systems.
- Promote integrated permitting, inspection and enforcement programs.
- Develop and use meaningful environmental and performance indicators.
- Create an Internet-based, agency-wide, integrated information management system that is accessible to the public.

Management

- Expand and improve cross-media communications, collaboration, and training.
- Establish agency-wide enforcement policy, standards and reporting.
- Coordinate emergency response roles and responsibilities, and provide adequate funding.
- Conduct continuous evaluations of program effectiveness.

* No change from that stated in the Cal/EPA Strategic Vision.

GOAL 10: Promote the sharing of science and technology within the Border Region.

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote a greater understanding of environmental laws and regulations in the Border Region.
- Provide analytical and scientific equipment and services needed by border area public agencies to identify and monitor the sources of environmental and public health threats posed by the cross-border transmission of environmental pollutants and toxics.



The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of water. It shows numerous concentric ripples and smaller waves, creating a complex, textured pattern of light and dark greenish-grey tones. The ripples are most prominent in the lower half of the image, where they form larger, more distinct circular patterns.

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CLEARANCE 10' 0"

ALFORD BRIDGE 4.5 M

UNITED STATES BORDER STATION
TECATE, CALIF.



440NY05